

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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P 241554Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8692

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 02916

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: CI, PINT, SOCI, UN

SUBJ: WIVES OF HIGH-LEVEL PRISONERS APPROACH EMBASSY

REF: SANTIAGO 2774.

1. SUMMARY. WIVES OF ERICH SCHNAKE, ALEJANDRO JILIBERTO, AND CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA HAVE JOINED MRS. ORLANDO LETELIER (REFTEL) IN INFORMING EMBASSY OF SITUATION OF THEIR HUSBANDS. JILIBERTO, A DAWSON ISLANDER, CONFIRMED, THROUGH WIFE, HARSH TREATMENT DURING LAST 30-45 DAYS OF STAY ON DAWSON REPORTED TO US EARLIER BY MRS. LETELIER. END SUMMARY.
2. DURING INTERVIEW MAY 23 REQUESTED BY WIVES OF EX-SENATOR ERICH SCHNAKE (SOCIALIST) AND EX-DEPUTY ALEJANDRO (CQVP) D VARYING EXPERIENCES OF THEIR HUSBANDS. JILIBERTO IS ONE OF DAWSON ISLAND GROUP, AND HIS EXPERIENCES AS RELATED BY WIFE, A LAWYER AND FORMER MEMBER OF SANTIAGO LABOR APPEALS COURT, ARE SIMILAR IN MANY RESPECTS TO THOSE RECOUNTED BY MRS. ORLANDO LETELIER (REFTEL).
3. MRS. JILIBERTO CLAIMS HER HUSBAND WAS ARRESTED IN DECEMBER 1973, TORTURED INTER ALIA BY ELECTRIC CHARGES WHILE IN CUSTODY OF INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT (NOTE THAT MRS. LETELIER DOES NOT CLAIM THAT HUSBAND WAS MISTREATED PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF DAWSON), THEN SENT TO DAWSON WHERE TREATED ADEQUATELY UNTIL LAST MONTH TO MONTH-AND-A-HALF, WHEN CAMP COMMANDER WAS CHANGED AND FORCED MARCHES WITH STONE-FILLED PACKS, WADING STREAMS WHILE HALF  
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NAKED, AND INADEQUATE FOOD BECAME CHARACTERISTIC. SHE DENIED

ANY KNOWLEDGE OF TORTURE IN SENSE OF COLD-BLOODED INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION OF PHYSICAL DURESS, HOWEVER.

4. ONCE IN SANTIAGO, JILIBERTO WAS MANDATED TO CARABINERO CUSTODY AND HE IS NOW BEING HELD IN MOUNTAINOUS CAJON DE MAIPO AREA OUTSIDE SANTIAGO. SHE HAS SEEN HIM ONCE SINCE RETURN FROM DAWSON; ACCORDING TO HER, HE SAID HE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH FOOD OR TREATMENT BUT DID COMPLAIN OF BEING HELD IN ISOLATED CELL WITH NOTHING TO DO, NO ONE TO TALK TO, AND NOTHING TO READ. SHE ACKNOWLEDGED SHE HAD HEARD STORY THAT ALL DAWSON PRISONERS WOULD BE REUNITED IN ONE PLACE IN JUNE, BUT SHE PUT THIS IN RUMOR CATEGORY. SHE STRESSED THAT NO CHARGES OF ANY KIND HAVE BEEN LODGED AGAINST JILIBERTO, NOR HAS ANY LEGAL PROCESS INVOLVING HIM OR OTHERS OF DAWSON GROUP EVEN BEGUN.

5. MRS. SCHNAKE SAID HUSBAND, DEFENDANT IN FACH TRIAL, WAS ARRESTED SHORTLY AFTER COUP, "TORTURED FOR 40 DAYS IN ARMY MILITARY ACADEMY," SENT TO DAWSON BRIEFLY, AND RETURNED TO SANTIAGO PUBLIC JAIL NOV 14, 1973. SINCE HIS RETURN TO SANTIAGO, SHE HAS BEEN ABLE TO VISIT HIM FREQUENTLY, HIS LAWYER HAS HAD AMPLE ACCESS TO HIM, AND HE HAS RECEIVED ADEQUATE IF SPARTAN TREATMENT. SHE SHARPLY CRITICIZED LEGAL BASIS FOR FACH TRIAL, NOTING SPECIFICALLY PROSECUTOR'S CHARGE OF "DEALING WITH THE ENEMY." HER PRIME IMMEDIATE CONCERN, HOWEVER, WAS BEING ALLOWED TO ATTEND HIS TRIAL, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR EARLY NEXT WEEK. SHE STATED THAT SHE WAS MAKING STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO SECURE PERMISSION TO ATTEND; IF THIS WERE REFUSED, SHE PLANNED TO SEND TELEGRAMS TO VARIOUS US SENATORS (CHURCH AND KENNEDY WERE SPECIFICALLY NAMED) AND UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, CITING DISCREPANCY BETWEEN GOC STATEMENTS THAT FACH TRIAL OPEN AND REALITY OF SITUATION. SHE ACKNOWLEDGED SOME FAMILIES HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO ATTEND PREVIOUS TRIALS. SHE ALSO PLANNED TO CONTACT RAMSEY CLARK, WHO IS AT PRESENT VISITING SANTIAGO (SANTIAGO 2790).

6. BOTH WOMEN REQUESTED US REPRESENTATIONS TO GOC TO SECURE ACCESS OF FAMILIES OF FACH DEFENDANTS TO THEIR TRIAL, MORE LIBERAL VISITING PRIVILEGES TO PRISONERS, AND IMPROVED CONDITIONS OF THEIR DETENTION. THEY URGED USG TO REQUEST GOC TO EXILE THEIR HUSBANDS AND OTHER PRISONERS. EMBOFF CITED USG INABILITY TO MAKE SPECIFIC REPRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF NON-US CITIZENS OR

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TO MAKE OFFICIAL COMMENT ON MERITS OF PROSECUTION OR DEFENSE LEGAL CASES. EMBOFF DID STRESS CONTINUED US INTEREST IN FULL PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE AS ELSEWHERE AND NOTED USG STATEMENTS THAT APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE TO GOC. AT THEIR REQUEST, EMBOFF AGREED TO REPORT THEIR CONCERNS "FOR THE RECORD."

7. WHILE ABOVE CONVERSATION TAKING PLACE, ANOTHER EMBOFF

SPOKE TO IRMA CACERES DE ALMEYDA, WIFE OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA (SOCIALIST). MRS. ALMEYDA CAME TO CHANCERY TO ASK EMBOFF TO USE POUCH TO SEND THREE LETTERS TO U.S. ACADEMIC CENTERS IN RESPONSE TO TEACHING OFFERS THAT HER HUSBAND HAD RECEIVED. EMBOFF AGREED AND LETTERS BEING POUCHED TO ARA/BC FOR TRANSMITTAL.

8. MRS. ALMEYDA REPORTED THAT HER HUSBAND IS IN GOOD PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL CONDITION. HE IS CURRENTLY IMPRISONED IN SANTIAGO'S TACNA REGIMENT QUARTERS WHERE HE WAS TRANSFERRED ON MARCH 30 FROM AIR FORCE WAR ACADEMY (SANTIAGO 1483). MRS. ALMEYDA, HER CHILDREN, AND HER HUSBAND'S PARENTS VISIT HIM THREE TIMES A WEEK. THEY HAVE BROUGHT HIM FOOD TO SUPPLEMENT HIS DIET, BOOKS, PERIODICALS, AND OTHER ITEMS INCLUDING A TV SET. SHE REPORTED THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN INTERROGATED SINCE HE WAS TURNED BACK TO ARMY CUSTODY. ACCORDING TO HIS WIFE, THE FORMER CABINET MINISTER HAS NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT ANY ATTORNEY AND HE IS PREPARING HIS OWN DEFENSE, THOUGH AS YET HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT SPECIFIC CHARGES, IF ANY, WILL BE BROUGHT AGAINST HIM. SHE STATED THAT SHE REALIZED THAT HER HUSBAND'S SITUATION IS CRITICAL BECAUSE HE IS THE "BIGGEST FISH" THE MILITARY HAS IN CUSTODY.

9. ACCORDING TO MRS. ALMEYDA, OTHER UP PRISONERS AT TACNA REGIMENT, ALL OF WHOM ARE RECEIVING SIMILAR TREATMENT, INCLUDE HERNAN SOTO, FORMER UNDER SECRETARY OF MINES; ALFREDO JOIGNANT, FORMER DIRECTOR OF CIVIL POLICE (INVESTIGACIONES) AND OSVALDO PUCCIO, 21-YEAR OLD SON OF ALLENDE'S PERSONAL SECRETARY WHO WAS ARRESTED ALONG WITH HIS FATHER ON SEPTEMBER 11 IN THE MONEDA. THE FATHER IS IN THE MILITARY HOSPITAL OWING TO A SEVERE HEART CONDITION WHICH PRE-DATED THE COUP. MRS. ALMEYDA LOOKS WELL, STATES THAT SHE IS NOT BEING HARASSED THOUGH SHE SUSPECTS HER PRIVATE MAIL IS READ, AND THAT SHE AND HER FAMILY

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ARE LIVING "AS WELL AS ONE COULD EXPECT." NEITHER SHE, MRS. SCHNAKE, NOR MRS. JILIBERTO SEEM TO BE SUFFERING ANY FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

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## Message Attributes

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